

Office of the Secretary, USDA

§3.91

of installment deductions will bear a reasonable relation to the size of the debt and the employee's ability to pay. However, the amount deducted for any period will not exceed 15 percent of the disposable pay from which the deduction is made, unless the employee has agreed in writing to the deduction of a greater amount. If possible, the installment payment will be sufficient in size and frequency to liquidate the debt in no more than three years. Installment payments of less than \$25 per pay period or \$50 a month will be accepted only in the most unusual circumstances.

(c) *Sources of deductions.* USDA will make deductions only from basic pay, special pay, incentive pay, retired pay, retainer pay, or in the case of an employee not entitled to basic pay, other authorized pay.

§3.84 Procedures for salary offset: Imposition of interest, penalties, and administrative costs.

Interest, penalties and administrative costs will be charged in accordance with §3.17.

§3.85 Non-waiver of rights.

So long as there are no statutory or contractual provisions to the contrary, no employee payment (or all or portion of a debt) collected under these regulations will be interpreted as a waiver of any rights that the employee may have under 5 U.S.C. 5514.

§3.86 Refunds.

USDA will refund promptly to the appropriate individual amounts offset under these regulations when:

(a) A debt is waived or otherwise found not owed to the United States (unless expressly prohibited by statute or regulation); or

(b) USDA is directed by an administrative or judicial order to refund amounts deducted from the employee's current pay.

§3.87 Agency regulations.

USDA agencies may issue regulations or policies not inconsistent with OPM regulations (5 CFR part 550, subpart K) and regulations in this subpart governing the collection of a debt by salary offset.

Subpart H—Cooperation With the Internal Revenue Service

AUTHORITY: 26 U.S.C. 61; 31 U.S.C. 3720A; I TFRM 4055.50.

§3.90 Reporting discharged debts to the Internal Revenue Service.

When USDA discharges a debt, whether for the full value or less, it will report the discharge to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in accordance with current IRS instructions.

[73 FR 4, Jan. 2, 2008]

Subpart I—Adjusted Civil Monetary Penalties

AUTHORITY: 28 U.S.C. 2461 note.

§3.91 Adjusted civil monetary penalties.

(a) *In general.* (1) The Secretary will adjust the civil monetary penalties, listed in paragraph (b) of this section, to take account of inflation at least once every 4 years as required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-410), as amended.

(2) Any increase in the dollar amount of a civil monetary penalty listed in paragraph (b) of this section shall apply only to violations occurring after May 7, 2010.

(3) The descriptions of the civil monetary penalties listed in paragraph (b) of this section are for illustrative purposes only. This section does not amend, interpret, implement, or alter in any way the statutory provisions in which the civil monetary penalties listed in paragraph (b) are set. Moreover, the descriptions of the civil monetary penalties listed in paragraph (b) do not necessarily contain a complete description of the circumstances (*e.g.*, requirements regarding the "state of mind" of the violator(s), requirements regarding the type of law or issuance violated, etc.) under which the penalties are assessed. Persons should consult the statutory text in which the civil monetary penalties are set and any implementing regulations to make applicability determinations.